



## Budget requests raises, dispatchers

**M**ore dispatchers and pay raises equivalent to that of employees of other city services are part of budget discussions already underway for the police department's next fiscal year, which will start May 1, 2017.

The Board of Police Commissioners approved the department's requested budget at their Oct. 11 meeting. The request now goes to the City Manager's office for consideration. His office will prepare a city-wide budget to be voted on by the City Council in March 2017.

Controversy already has erupted over a five-year business plan for the city that slated the lowest raises of employees of any city services for police employees. The plan allotted raises ranging from 2.5 to 4.7 percent each of the next three years for members of all other city departments but just 2 percent raises for KCPD members.

"A financial plan that does not value police employees as much as employees of other city services has the potential to negatively impact police morale and employee retention," Chief Darryl Forté wrote on his blog.

The City Council ultimately voted Oct. 27 on a revised plan that included the below but did not specifically state police employees would receive equivalent raises:

"The City Council affirms its commitment to the adopted goal of public safety and pledges to collaborate with the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners on a long-term financial plan that considers staffing ratios in all patrol divisions as well as salary adjustments and other compensation commensurate with experience, length of services, and cost of living."

The department's 2017-18 requested budget includes a decision to package to hire 21 more dispatchers in the Communications Unit at the cost of about \$1 million. Several members of the public have complained to local media outlets and on social me-



dia about being put on hold when calling 911. The requested budget states the department needs to fall more in line with recommendations by the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials that dispatchers handle no more than 12,000 calls per year to provide quicker response to 911 calls from the community.

Other staffing numbers remain down in comparison to recent years. The proposed budget funds 1,367 law enforcement and 586 non-sworn positions, compared to 1,399 and 585 respectively in the current fiscal year. As of Sept. 30,

however, only 1,327 law enforcement and 530 non-sworn positions on the department were filled. Ten years ago, the department funded 1,423 officers. Chief Forté has worked with city officials to get funding for a police department staffing study in the upcoming budget.

The FY2017-18 requested budget does call for a 5 percent across-the-board raise for law enforcement not at top pay step, a 3.5 percent raise for non-sworn employees and law enforcement at top step, as well as a pay step increase on department members' anniversary dates. The budget transmittal letter from Chief Forté states these raises are intended to give KCPD members equal pay treatment with the city's other first responders.

One budgetary unknown is body-worn cameras. The police department is conducting a 90-day pilot program with them now (see article in September's Informant) to get an idea of the cost of data storage and policy considerations. The department will present the cost estimates to the City Council. The City has hosted several public meetings online and in person to get feedback on how high of a budgetary priority body cameras are for residents.

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WJC Hall of Fame

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Upcoming Events

# Art project invites community dialog

Local artists brought an interactive project to KCPD's East Patrol Division to ask officers and members of the public to finish the statement, "All I want is \_\_\_\_\_."

Kansas City Artists Charlie Mylie and Jori Sackin partnered with police on a community art project they called "The Big Board at East Patrol Division." Kansas City residents – including police officers – were invited to come by East Patrol at 2640 Prospect Ave. from October 11 to 13 and tell Mylie and Sackin how they would answer the prompt, "All I want is \_\_\_\_\_." Mylie illustrated dozens of the answers.

Participants were then invited to place their desire on a giant, magnetized, graph board in East Patrol's lobby. The board had two axes on which participants could decide where their answer fell: ambiguous to specific and unachievable to achievable. Participants put their answers where they thought they should go, but others could move them around afterward.

"Then anyone who comes by can argue the placement of anyone else's answer," Sackin said. "That's why they're on magnets, so they can move. It's a socially negotiated thing – we kind of decide what our words mean, but other people do, too."

Residents who couldn't make it by East Patrol Division were able to submit their answers on social media. Mylie illustrated those, and he and Sackin placed them on the board.

This is the second time Mylie and Sackin have done a "Giant Board" project. Their first was at a Kansas City bank earlier this year. KCPD officers spotted it there and thought it would be a great opportunity to invite community members to share their thoughts with police and vice versa in a fun and meaningful way, Captain Ryan Mills said. So they invited the artists to recreate the project at East Patrol. More than 100 people contributed responses. Search "The Big Board at East Patrol Division" event on Facebook to see all of them and Mylie's illustrations of them, but below are some of the answers submitted by police and members of the public to the statement, "All I want is \_\_\_\_\_."



Artist Jori Sachin helped one boy place his answer to the question, "All I want is," on the board at East Patrol. Below, artist Charlie Mylie illustrated some of the answers.



- "To be the best officer I can be today."
- "A greater level of cooperation."
- "To be a good athlete."
- "Second chances."
- "My dad."
- "To grow up better than society predicts me to be."
- "A kitten."
- "To stop the violence."
- "To get my kids through college."
- "The community to feel safe enough to talk to the police."
- "To be rich."

Sackin said he never envisioned the project would be at a police station, but once officers pitched it to him, he thought it was a great idea.

"One of the really good qualities of this project is it can take really contentious, hard-to-deal with issues and frame them in kind of a game," he said. "It seems to diffuse some of the social anxiety about tense topics and makes a way to have a deeper conversation about them."

And that's just what happened. The community ended up contributing many positive and constructive responses. The artists were at East Patrol for three days, and each day

they were joined by a KCPD officer. Captain Mills said this led to great dialog as officers and artists talked with other community members about where they wanted to place their answers on the board.

"We wanted honest feedback," Captain Mills said.

One of the most encouraging moments to come out of the project was when a young boy came into

the police station with an adult and was visibly frightened. "He didn't want to talk to me, but he told me he was afraid of police," Captain Mills said.

Captain Mills talked with him a while and convinced him to participate in the art project. The artists helped the boy decide where his answer should go on the board. As he was about to leave, the boy hugged Captain Mills and then eagerly called his father to tell him he'd met a really nice policeman and was excited to have spoken with him.



# Mounted Patrol Hosts Open House



# PR Specialist is Hall of Famer



**B**efore she became a public relations specialist in KCPD's Media Unit, Lynsay (Gallagher) Holst was one of the top athletes William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., has ever seen.

Holst was one of five former athletes, as well as members of two teams, inducted into William Jewell's Athletic Hall of Fame during the College's homecoming festivities on Oct. 8. After two years playing at Johnson County Community College, she played basketball for the Cardinals from 2003 to 2005. She graduated in 2005.

At her induction, master of ceremonies and men's basketball coach Larry Holley said Holst was arguably one of the best student-athletes to ever wear a William Jewell uniform in any sport. Her speed and quickness made her one of the toughest match-ups for opposing teams. She was a transfer who played two years for the Cardinals and was a two-time First Team All-Conference selection (Heart of America Athletic Conference) and an NAIA Division II Honorable Mention All-American selection in 2005. She holds single-season school records for points (640) and field goals made (243). She led the Cardinals to a #10 national ranking and a school-record 28 wins as a senior.

Jewell's Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding achievement by alumni and/or faculty in the areas of athletic achievement or coaching, or other noteworthy accomplishments in athletic-related areas.



## Upcoming Events

November 5  
**Crime Stoppers Tent  
Event**

November 11  
**Veterans Day**

November 15  
**Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting**

November 17  
**Fall Citizen's Academy  
Graduation**

November 18  
**Metro Chiefs and Sheriffs  
Association Awards for  
Valor**

November 24  
**Thanksgiving**

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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

***Life-Saving Award***  
Officer Christopher Lear

***Meritorious Service Award***  
Sergeant Jacob Becchina  
Officer Gary Knapp

### Promotions

**To Supervisor**  
Jennifer Emery  
Candice Thomas

**To Manager**  
David Mann

**To Sergeant**  
Gordon Herndon  
Ronald Hunter  
Christopher Onik  
Terrence Owens  
Dustin Scherer

**To Captain**  
Carl Abraham  
Marisa Barnes  
Brian Barch

Kelly Eckert  
Terry Freed  
James Swoboda

**To Major**  
Tye Grant

### Retirements

Sergeant Jack Henry  
Sergeant Eric Turner  
Officer Timothy Harms  
Detective Danny Phillips  
Analyst Lora Tarango

### Obituary

Retired Captain Ronald Canaday  
Retired Captain John Layton  
Retired Officer James Shobe  
Retired Civilian Gerald Black

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Kansas City Missouri  
Police Department  
is to protect and serve  
with professionalism,  
honor and integrity.